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CLW & ASSOCIATES

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LTR FILED

December 9, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Louisiana Public Service Commission recently endorse BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. Your approval will open the way for true competition in our state and will give Louisiana's economy a big boost.


BellSouth is the major provider of local service for business and residential customers in the New Orleans area. Although the long-distance providers have chosen not to offer local service, despite the fact that the local service market is open to them, there are other providers who are entering the local service market in New Orleans.

As competition increases, consumers will benefit. Competition brings new players into the market, and jobs and economic investment accompany them. As new providers move into the area, they will build their own network facilities, and their employees will need housing. All of these are important to my industry.

I believe the allowing BellSouth to compete, for long-distance service will not only expand our product and service options but will also broaden our economic base. jobs in the telecommunications industry, a growth market for the future, typically are well-paid technical positions and are attractive options for the workforce of tomorrow.

Grant BellSouth's request this year so Louisiana can have open competition in the telecommunications industry without further delay. This will boost our efforts to attract other industries to our area.

Sincerely,


Dianne Petrie
Accounting Clerk

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OM.448

December 10, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

My letter is in support of Bell South's application as to relates to the long-distance market in Louisiana.

Bell South has exhibited unprecedented local service since divestiture, and we can only positively assume it will carry over into the long distance market place. As a small business owner, I would like to have the option to consolidate and or single source my telecommunication needs. If the aforementioned is accomplished, competition will lower cost, create better service, and lastly provide technical oriented, non-traditional jobs in an ever-growing workplace.

Bell South's emergence into the long distance arena makes good business sense.

In advance, thank you for a positive evaluation of Bill South's request and approval of their application.

Professionally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thaddeus A. Foucher".

Thaddeus A. Foucher
Sr. Vice President

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041



**AMERICAN
NATIONAL**

AMERICAN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

PAUL E. PAZOS, JR., MULTILINE GENERAL AGENT

2201 VETERANS BOULEVARD, SUITE 405 METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70002-6326 BUS: (504) 828-3600 FAX: (504) 828-3601



CC Docket No. 97-231

December 3, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dec 9 5 11 PM '97

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a business owner, I am extremely interested in anything that will assist me in lowering my cost of doing business. Since I rely heavily on long distance calls for my business, I am very interested in BellSouth's application in Louisiana to provide long distance service.

Since the break-up of the old Bell System in the 1980's, many of us have been awaiting the promised benefits of deregulation. Lower prices is one of the main benefits of concern to businesses.

Since the Louisiana Public Service Commission has approved BellSouth's application and certified that they have complied with the intent of Congress, there should be no further impediment to BellSouth providing long distance service.

I request that the FCC approve this application as soon as possible so that the business community can benefit.

Sincerely


Paul E. Pazos, Jr.
Multi-Line General Agent

PP/db

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ALLIANCE ENTERPRISES, INC.



595 Barbara Place
Mandeville, LA 70448
(800) 392-5902 FAX (504) 626-5443

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEC 9 5 11 PM '97

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

December 2, 1997

Dear Chairman Kennard:

It is my understanding that the FCC is currently considering an application by BellSouth in Louisiana that they be allowed to enter the long distance marketplace. Furthermore, it was my understanding that the intent of deregulating the long distance industry was to bring competition and thereby lower prices to customers.

As a small business owner whose primary contact with my client base is via long distance phone calls, I have a serious vested interest in anything that can assist me in lowering my operating expenses. Allowing a new company into long distance can have only one effect for me; that is, lower prices.

Unfortunately, real competition has not yet begun! Customers in general, and small businesses in particular, will never receive the choices and lower prices that many expected until someone takes the lead. If BellSouth has decided it wants to move forward and has filed an application to offer long-distance service in Louisiana, I think the FCC should grant approval and allow BellSouth into this important arena.

I urge you to encourage the competitive marketplace to grow by approving BellSouth's application for long distance in Louisiana. It's the quickest way for small businesses to begin to receive the benefits Congress intended.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Villar
President

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DOCKET FILE COPY 17-0141

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

EDWARD J. PRICE III
MAYOR

LINDA BARNETT
SECRETARY/TAX COLLECTOR

City of Mandeville

"THE HEART OF THE OZONE BELT"



CITY COUNCIL

DENIS P. BECHAC
MAYOR PRO TEM

JACK B. MCGUIRE
AT-LARGE

HOMER J. FOUQUIER, JR.
DISTRICT I

ADELAIDE J. BOETTNER
DISTRICT II

JAMES J. GLEASON III
DISTRICT III

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 3, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Now that you have received BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana, I strongly encourage you to approve it immediately.

BellSouth is the dominant local service provider in our area and is responsive to customer needs. They have also worked tirelessly with business, industry, government, and others to introduce new telecommunications services to better serve our community. Now they are prepared and eager to expand into the long-distance market and to offer complete packages of communications services to all customers in our area. For the first time, business and residential customers will have the choice of selecting one provider for all of their telecommunications needs.

BellSouth deserves your endorsement to move into the long-distance market. For the past two years since passage of the Telecommunications Act, they have labored arduously to comply with the prescribed requirements. They have opened the local markets to competition, demonstrated compliance with all parts of the 14-point checklist, negotiated interconnection and resale agreements, acquired approval of their proposed rate structure, proved that their entry is in the public good, and earned the endorsement of the Louisiana Public Service Commission. The final step is to gain your approval.

Chairman Kennard, on behalf of the citizens of Mandeville, I implore you to do what is best for the citizens of Louisiana. Vote today for approval of BellSouth's application and urge your fellow commissioners to do likewise.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Price, III
Mayor

lcbw

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041

Paula Ross

662 Franklin St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 2, 1997

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CC Docket No. 97-231

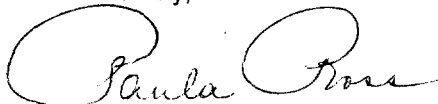
The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to request that you allow BellSouth to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. As an employee of the Marketing department of BellSouth, I have had to watch as local competitors have picked off customers daily, nearly 10,000 by now. At this rate, the only way we will be able to keep our jobs is if you allow BellSouth to branch out into new markets. We are ready for the challenge and have met your competitive checklist.

Please give my request your serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Paula Ross

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Dec 2 2 39 PM '97

November 24, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

It has been called to my attention that our local telephone company, BellSouth, has been approved and endorsed by the Louisiana Public Service Commission to compete for our long distance phone business. I understand that BellSouth has now proceeded to apply to the FCC for final approval to get under way here in Louisiana.

I have been a residential developer and home-builder for fifty one years in the Shreveport Bossier area. The home-building business is dependent upon competitive choices from the communications business. I believe that having a company like BellSouth providing long distance service would be good for cities like Shreveport and Bossier because of the new products, services and jobs that come from healthy competition.

BellSouth has a reputation of reliability and trust in our community. Our state needs reliable companies like Bell South competing for our long distance services. Our citizens and the home-building industry would be well served with this new addition. It seems that a company with the expertise and reputation like BellSouth would be a logical choice to enjoy an opportunity to serve our state.

Please accept this letter as our wholehearted support of the request before you to approve BellSouths application. We believe our Public Service Commission has set things on the right course with their support.

Sincerely,

James L. Larkin

TAL/mac

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Dec 2 2 39 PM '97 JAN 28 1998

Office of the President

McNeese State University
P.O. Box 93300
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70609-3300
(318) 475-5556

November 20, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As president of McNeese State University in Lake Charles, I am acutely aware of the critical role telecommunications plays in educating our young people, particularly in colleges located outside major metropolitan areas. Access to the Internet is absolutely essential in this Information Age, and the availability of affordable, state-of-the-art communications services is key to our success as educators.

I understand you are currently reviewing BellSouth's request to provide long-distance service in the State of Louisiana, and I am writing to urge you to approve their application and allow them to compete in the long-distance market. I believe their entry in the long-distance business will be a great benefit to the consumers of this state—and particularly to educators who are constantly looking to make the most efficient use of their limited budgets.

Competition in any market segment leads to efficiency and these savings are passed on to customers. Competition also sparks ingenuity and the development of new products and services to meet customers' changing needs. These benefits serve Louisiana's educators well.

Furthermore, BellSouth has been extremely supportive of education in Louisiana. The BellSouth Foundation has awarded numerous grants to fund special projects; hundreds of teachers have been rewarded for their ingenuity through BellSouth's teacher mini-grant program; and their support of Net Day in Louisiana is unsurpassed. Finally, schools throughout the state receive heavily discounted access to high-speed data services by BellSouth through a special Education Discount Plan.

I believe that if BellSouth is allowed to compete in the long-distance business, education will benefit in many ways; the cost of telephone service will decrease; the availability of innovative products and services will increase; and BellSouth will be able to provide even greater assistance to education as a provider of a full array of telecommunications services.

On behalf of educators throughout Louisiana, I encourage you to act quickly to approve BellSouth's request and enable competition in the telecommunications market to benefit our young people.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Hebert
President

pht

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021

SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO PARTIALITY FILED

Noble E. Ellington

State Senator
District 32

4272 Front St.
Winnsboro, LA 71295

(318) 435-7313
1-800-256-7313

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JAN 28 1999



November 25, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Standing Committees

Labor and Industrial Relations, Chairman
Judiciary B
Local and Municipal Affairs
Senate and Governmental Affairs

CC Docket No. 97-231

Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

Rural north Louisiana has a difficult time attracting competition in the telecommunications market. Since our population is not concentrated in a large urban area and small businesses are in the majority, our area is more costly to serve.


The large national long-distance companies prefer to concentrate on business customers in urban areas where profit margins are larger, so they have not entered our market. We do not like to be ignored and want to do whatever is possible to encourage competition in North Louisiana.

BellSouth's interest in entering the long-distance market provides a perfect opportunity for us. We have an established relationship with them as a partner in our community, so we understand the quality products and services they offer. As our major provider of local service, BellSouth demonstrates a caring attitude toward all customers, whether large or small.

I believe that allowing BellSouth to enter the long-distance market will force other providers, both regional and national, to compete in North Louisiana. As BellSouth grows its market, the others will need to offer new services to maintain market share. As a result, innovative products will be introduced, prices will decrease, and services will be bundled to attract customers to finally have choices and not be forced to use a different provider for each service.

The decision is in your hands. BellSouth has met all the established requirements and is ready to compete as soon as you give the approval. North Louisiana is ready for the benefits that will be sparked by the competition. We have waited long enough; make it happen now.

Sincerely,


Noble Ellington
Louisiana State Senator

NE:baa

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November 26, 1997

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The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard,

Please allow Bell South to enter the long distance market in its territory — especially in Louisiana. Use this decision as an opportunity to display the new FCC to the country. Consider it a pilot program to prove that competitors are not at all reluctant to enter the local market once a "Bell" is in the long distance market. Residential customers deserve a choice.

Hoping for a Christmas present.

Sincerely,

Alfred Dennis

812 Vintage Dr.

Kenner La 70065

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Dec 9 6 5 09 PM '97

December 2, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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JAN 2 8 1998

Dear Mr. Kennard,


FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am writing you to ask for your support of BellSouth's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. Competition has arrived in Louisiana with over 10,000 of our customers leaving us and choosing our competitors service already. These competitors are very active in seeking our customers and growing each day. I feel this demonstrates that BellSouth has opened its local network to any and all competitors.

I am a 25 year employee with BellSouth. I live in Bastrop, Louisiana where I am active in the Optimist Club and my local church, I also served for 8 years on the Bastrop City Council as a alderman from District "B". Because I am very visible in my community, people are always asking me why we don't offer long distance service. They don't understand why we are prohibited from providing this service, because they receive calls from everyone else trying to get them to choose them as their long distance company. They do know my company will, and always has, treated them fairly. They want one company to provide all their telephone needs.

By allowing us to compete in long distance we can give these customers and my neighbors a real choice in their long distance provider.

Thank You.


Tom Carter
1910 Hampton St.
Bastrop, La. 71220

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CC Docket No. 97-231

December 2, 1997

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard,

I own a small business in Bastrop, Louisiana and would like to comment on BellSouths application to provide long distance service in Louisiana.. I must receive 2 calls a week from every long distance company in the world wanting me to switch to their "better" company. I have always used AT&T for my long distance company and even though their rates are high I would never switch, unless I could choose BellSouth to handle my long distance. This company provides my local service, it would be so nice to just have one company to deal with. They really care about my business and I trust in their ability to provide me with super phone service. I of course am concerned about the cost of my telephone service both local and long distance. It just makes sense that if we had competition between the major long distance company and Bellsouth my rates would go down.

Please allow BellSouth to enter the long distance market in Louisiana.

Thank You.

Patricia Carter

Patricia Carter
Keep-Safe Self Storage
111 Garfield St. .
Bastrop, La. 71220

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ALCEE JONES, SR.
4718 Charlmark
New Orleans, Louisiana 70127
(504) 242-1890

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 4, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a consumer, I've often found that less is more. I support BellSouth's entry into long distance because I believe it will mean less hassle, less cost and less "posturing" on the part of the three companies that now have a lock on the long-distance business in the United States.

Before 1984, we had the ultimate telecommunications convenience. We were able to have one company for both local and long-distance needs. Now, BellSouth is in the Internet, cellular and entertainment business. Doesn't it just make sense to allow them into the long distance business as well? That way, customers could have the one-stop shopping they've wanted since the breakup of the Bell system 14 years ago. We would save time and hassle by having just one company and one bill.

We would also save money. With BellSouth in the long-distance business, Louisiana would have another option. That kind of competition would have a tremendous impact on the cost of service. The long-distance giants would be forced to do less "posturing" and show more proof that they are indeed trying to help the average customer save money. They could no longer raise their prices in lock step, while ignoring the fact that costs have actually declined.

I believe the Telecommunications Act will benefit me as a consumer when competition is allowed to openly flourish in the marketplace. But we cannot get there without taking that first, difficult step. I urge you to act quickly to this important process by approving BellSouth's long-distance filing.

Sincerely,



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JOSEPH J. TOSH
A T T O R N E Y A T L A W

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

December 4, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commissions
1919 M Street N W
Washington D C 20554

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

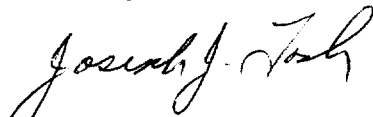
In operating my business, one of the highest overhead items is the cost of telephone service, both local and long distance. Therefore, I was pleased to hear that Bell South in Louisiana had applied to provide long distance service.

That would add one more significant competitor into that market and inevitably drive down long distance costs. It would also finally allow me to deal with only one company for my long distance and local service, whether that company be Bell South or another.

As I appreciate Congress' intent in passing the Telecommunications Act last year, we will now have open competition. I understand that Bell South secured the approval of the Louisiana Public Service Commission after hearings and now its up to the FCC to give final approval.

I request that this approval be given as soon as possible to allow business owners like myself to finally benefit from deregulation of this industry.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Tosh

/dav

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Dec 9 5 08 PM '97

December 2, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The purpose of my correspondence is to request your favorable consideration of BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in the State of Louisiana. Given the endorsement of the Louisiana Public Service Commission on August 20 past, this request seems reasonable and compelling.

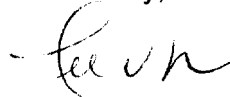
BellSouth has opened its local telephone service market to its' competitors in fair exchange for the opportunity to provide its' customers with long-distance service. Since competition is viewed as both healthy for the economy and beneficial to consumers, new choices in local and long-distance will result. In addition, customers like me want the ability to choose one company to provide all of their telecommunications needs.

Particularly objectionable and obsolete are the arbitrary LATA boundaries created by the break-up of the Bell System. These antiquated calling zones limit market expansion outside their boundaries by requiring higher priced inter-LATA circuits, which are currently only provided by the present long-distance interexchange carriers. In many cases, the distance to cross LATA boundaries in order to increase market size is disproportionate to the cost of the high priced circuits needed to conduct business. Complete abolition of these arbitrary boundaries is the only remedy to this contrived method of long-distance service jurisdiction.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to choose BellSouth as my sole source provider of local and long-distance service both in Louisiana and across the southeast region of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lee V. Phipps

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dec 9 5 07 PM '97

December 4, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I wish you great success in this new endeavor of leadership.

The Federal Communications Commission now has under its review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana. I support BellSouth's application and urge you to approve it without delay.

BellSouth provides my local telephone service, and I have choices in selecting my long-distance, Internet access, and wireless providers. Where choices exist, there are product and service options as well as price competition, but it requires time and effort to keep up with the options and prices, which change frequently. Although there are good choices in some, but not all, market segments, I would like to have a single provider for all of my telecommunications needs.

The time is now for BellSouth to enter the long-distance market and compete with the existing providers. When this happens, the long-distance providers will expedite their entry into the local service market, and full competition in every segment of the telecommunications industry will come to our community. As consumers, we will then have more options of providers, products, and services, and prices will decrease. We will also have the chance to select, of our choice, one provider and consolidate services, which will save area businesses time, effort, and, ultimately, money.

We urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market so that I alone with all the other citizens of the state of Louisiana can truly have a choice. Kindly place my letter of support with the BellSouth official filing record.

Sincerely,

Irma L. Cry
Executive Director

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December 4, 1997

RECEIVED
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
JAN 28 1998
Dec 9 5 08 PM '97

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N. W.
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment to the Federal Communications Commission. It's a pleasure to have someone with your background and expertise on the panel because there are so many critical issues pending before the Commission.

One of the those critical issues will impact the people of Louisiana. BellSouth has applied to the Commission to offer long-distance service in the state. I urge you to approve the request and let customers begin to see the benefits that Congress promised consumers when it passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

As a Louisiana resident, I applauded the Louisiana Public Service Commission when, on August 20, the PSC decide to support BellSouth's long-distance application. Our commissioners realized that Louisianians want another choice for service.

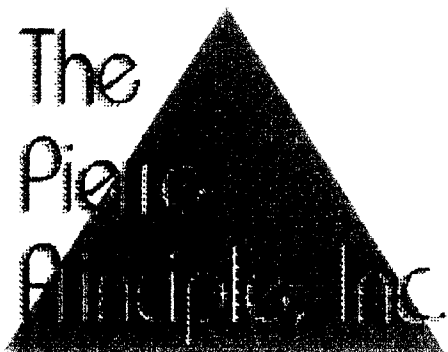
Another benefit to competition: Price reduction. Right now, the discounts are being handed to the high-volume users, leaving average customers wondering what happened to their "big savings."

As I consumer and small business owner, I rely on you to make the right choice on this critical matter. Please vote for lower costs, bigger benefits and more choices. Please follow the lead of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and allow BellSouth, our local telecommunications company, to offer long-distance in Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Monica Pierre
President



P. O. Box 3552
Harvey, Louisiana 70059
Phone: 504-366-8041
FAX: 504-366-1222
EMAIL: MGPIERRE@AOL.COM

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JOHN D. TRAVIS
DISTRICT 62

STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 03, 1997

BOOK-FILE (117) ORIGINAL
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P.O. BOX 412
JACKSON, LOUISIANA 70748
1-800-256-9074
(504) 342-0779
(504) 634-7470

CHAIRMAN - COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL OUTLAY
BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Lower prices, more choices, economic benefits--these are the promises Congress made to the people of this great nation when it passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996. These are the promises consumers and businesses were counting on, but unfortunately these promises have not yet to fruition.

As chairman of the federal Communications commission, however, you have a real opportunity to turn this around and to ensure the people get the benefits they deserve. All you have to do is approve BellSouth's application to provide long-distant service in Louisiana and full competition--and the resulting benefits--are sure to come.

It is only reasonable to assume that once BellSouth begins marketing long distance-service, and gaining customers who want to take advantage of lower long-distance rates and one-stop shopping for all their communications services, that the long-distance companies will follow suit. They will jump into the local service market to remain competitive and protect their customer base.

Futhermore, they will likely invest in the area's telecommunications network so they can provide unique services and differentiate themselves from the local provider. This investment, along with additional investment by BellSouth, will attract businesses that want to locate in an area with competitively priced, state-of-the-art telecommunications services. National economists predict that impact to total more than \$900 million over a 10-year period.

I strongly encourage you to vote "yes" and allow BellSouth to compete with the existing long-distance carriers. Louisiana citizens have everything to gain--and nothing to lose--if you do.

Sincerely,

John D, Travis
State representative
District 62

JDT:bm

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LITIGANT FILED

December 2, 1997

Robert E. Ours, Sr.
5721 Blue Heron Court
Baton Rouge, La. 70817

Dec 9 5 07 PM '97

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

BellSouth Corporation filed an application with the FCC on November 6, 1997 to allow BellSouth to provide long distance service in Louisiana. It is my strong conviction that the FCC should approve the application and allow Louisiana's consumers to finally begin to realize the benefits of true long distance competition, as opposed to the pseudo-competition now being provided by the existing long distance carriers. These are the same long distance carriers who are spending millions upon millions of dollars to block BellSouth's entry into the long distance arena. True competition is the surest way to encourage the long distance carriers to provide local telephone service to residence as well as large business customers in order to remain competitive.

BellSouth has stated that it's entry into the long distance market will mean lower long distance rates (at least 5% below AT&T's basic per-minute rate) for the average telephone customer, not just for large business or other high volume customers. BellSouth's entry into long distance will also attract new business and industry to the state of Louisiana due to increases in the state's telecommunications infrastructure. New business and industry is vital to the economic health of Louisiana.

As you and your staff are aware, there are many benefits to be realized from long distance competition, other than those discussed above. These are benefits which are being denied to the citizens of Louisiana as long as BellSouth is denied entry into the long distance market. I therefore strongly encourage your support and approval of BellSouth's application to the FCC to provide long distance service in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Ours, Sr.

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South Louisiana Economic Council
Assumption • Lafourche • St. Mary • Terrebonne

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Jake Giardina
President

C. Lindy Hoffmann
Vice President

Dr. Ken Rachal
Secretary-Treasurer

Vic Lafont
Executive Director

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 3, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard,

As we understand, the deregulation of the telecommunications industry was supposed to result in the introduction of full competition for all communications services. Although it has been almost two years since the historic Telecommunications Act was passed, it is apparent that this competition has still not yet begun.

We believe the best way to jump start total competition is to allow the local telephone companies such as BellSouth to compete in the long distance business. Congress mandated a lengthy set of requirements for local companies to meet, and BellSouth has complied. But even with the availability of companies to compete in local markets, it appears that other long distance carriers just don't want to compete.

Keeping BellSouth out of long distance will only delay widespread competition for local residential service, as well as deny the residents of rural south Louisiana lower prices for local and long distance service along with the opportunity to choose one provider for all their communications needs. Furthermore, the communities in our region will not benefit from the technological investment that will result in the creation of new jobs that are sure to follow the introduction of this competition.

In your examination of the facts surrounding this case, we sincerely urge you, Chairman Kennard, to let the citizens and businesses of south Louisiana reap the full benefits of a deregulated telecommunications industry. Specifically, we ask that you approve BellSouth's request and let competition begin.

Sincerely,

Jacob Giardina
President

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December 5, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dec 11 3 29 PM '97

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Honorable Kennard:


The telephone customers in Louisiana deserve a real choice in long distance service providers. I urge you to follow the lead of the Louisiana Public Service Commission (PSC) and support BellSouth's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. BellSouth has met the competitive requirements of the Telecommunications Act. In addition, the Louisiana PSC confirmed that BellSouth's entry into long distance is in the public interest.

To this date, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has slammed the long distance door in the face of BellSouth and all other Regional Bell Operating Companies. Do you want real competition in long distance? Do you want Louisiana to realize the competitive benefits promised by the Telecommunications Act of 1996? To say no to BellSouth in Louisiana is saying no to real competition and real choice. I am convinced that the current long distance providers do not want real competition. However, the citizens of Louisiana want competition and deserve a real choice in long distance service providers. To say no to BellSouth in Louisiana would deny the citizens of Louisiana the full benefits of the Telecommunications Act. The citizens of Louisiana want and need the benefits of the Telecommunications Act, approximately 7500 jobs.

The FCC must be concern with what is right for the telephone customers of Louisiana. Real competition and real choices are right for Louisiana. The long distance providers will not tell you that they are ready to compete. You have to tell them that BellSouth is going to compete in the long distance market in Louisiana because competition is in the best interest of the consumer. BellSouth has said with their application that, they have satisfied the requirements of the law, they are competing on the local level, and they are ready to compete in the long distance market.

Give the citizens of Louisiana real competition and a real choice in long distance providers. Say yes to BellSouth's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Scott

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Darlene Savoie
3933 Secretariat Dr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

December 4, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

As an employee of BellSouth, I support our application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. Since the Telecommunications Act was passed in February, 1996 we have all been anxiously awaiting the day that we can provide ALL the services our customers want.

Allowing us into the long distance market may just be what it takes to encourage long distance companies to get into the local telephone service business. Then we can really see true competition.

I have been a part of BellSouth for over 28 years and I have every confidence we will stack up just fine against anyone out there. Its time to knock down the fences so we can roll up our sleeves and get to work..

I strongly recommend you vote "YES" for BellSouth.

Sincerely,



Darlene Savoie

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CC Docket No. 97-231

December 4, 1997

Nancy J. Nevil
3717 Morriswood Drive
Harvey, La. 70058

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

This letter is to request the FCC to allow BellSouth to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana.

True competition in the long-distance market is the surest way to encourage the long-distance carriers to provide local telephone service to residence as well as business customers in order to remain competitive.

BellSouth has aggressively opened its local network to competition, having signed interconnection and resale agreements with 250 companies regionwide, including 87 companies that want to do business in Louisiana.

Competitors are aggressively pursuing customers in various markets throughout the state, including New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport, and many of these companies are installing their own switches and placing miles of fiber optic cable throughout the area they intend to serve.

BellSouth has lost close to 10,000 customers in Louisiana, and losses regionwide are growing at about 25 percent per month.

Allowing BellSouth to compete in long distance finally gives customers a real choice in long-distance service providers. Currently, three companies complete the vast majority of long-distance calls. These companies give big discounts to large business customers and other high-volume users, which small businesses and low-volume residential customers pay higher rates. Furthermore, these companies continue to raise their prices in lockstep, without regard to decreasing costs.

The list of benefits to customers by allowing BellSouth to enter the long-distance market is lengthy and justified. Your consideration of these facts and your approval of BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market would be appreciated.

Respectfully,

Nancy J. Nevil

Nancy J. Nevil

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December 3, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

You recently received an application from BellSouth to enter the long distance market in Louisiana. This is to urge you to act on this request without delay and approve it.

The Telecommunications Act was written by Congress to serve the interests of consumers, not the interest of the three "major" long distance carriers. True competition in long - distance is the surest way to encourage the long-distance carriers to provide local telephone service to residence, as well as business customers, in order to remain competitive.

Additionally, allowing BellSouth to compete in long distance finally gives customers a real choice in long-distance service providers. Currently, three companies complete the vast majority of long-distance calls. These companies give big discounts to large business customers and other high-volume users, while small businesses and low-volume residential customers pay higher rates. Furthermore, these companies continue to raise their prices in lockstep, without regard to decreasing costs.

Also, investment in the state's telecommunications infrastructure, which will attract new business and industry to the state, will increase. National experts suggest the economic impact will total more than \$900 million and will result in the creation of more than 7,500 jobs in various industry segments such as manufacturing, transportation, utilities and other services within 10 years.

BellSouth is committed to, and prepared for, both local and long distance competition. Approving BellSouth's application will bring real competition to Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Don Hudson
112 Hidden Lakes Drive
West Monroe, La. 71291

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101 S Hardwick Dr.
Bossier City, La. 71111-6034

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dec 9 4 56 PM '97

December 2, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you not only as an employee of BellSouth but as a customer of BellSouth who has to rely on one of the other long distance companies for long distance service.

I, like other BellSouth employees, have the opportunity to view this situation from both sides of the fence.

On the positive side, granting BellSouth the opportunity to compete in the long distance business can only make the customer the winner. Not only will competition from BellSouth with the other long distance companies drive down long distance prices, it will make all the long distance companies, including BellSouth, develop and provide new and innovative technology for the consumer at affordable prices as well as create new businesses and new jobs, thus stimulating the economy even more.

On the negative side, there is none. Just plain old common sense tells us that competition is good for what ails us and, in this case, competition is good for the economy and the customer. Everyone will come out a winner.

I feel we in lower management and those in higher management in BellSouth have strived to and succeeded in meeting all the criteria that has been required of BellSouth to enter the long distance market. Please give us the opportunity to reap the benefits, both as employees and as customers, that will be gained by allowing BellSouth to enter the long distance market.

Sincerely,

Robert Mock

Robert Mock

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